




# Bear River Compact

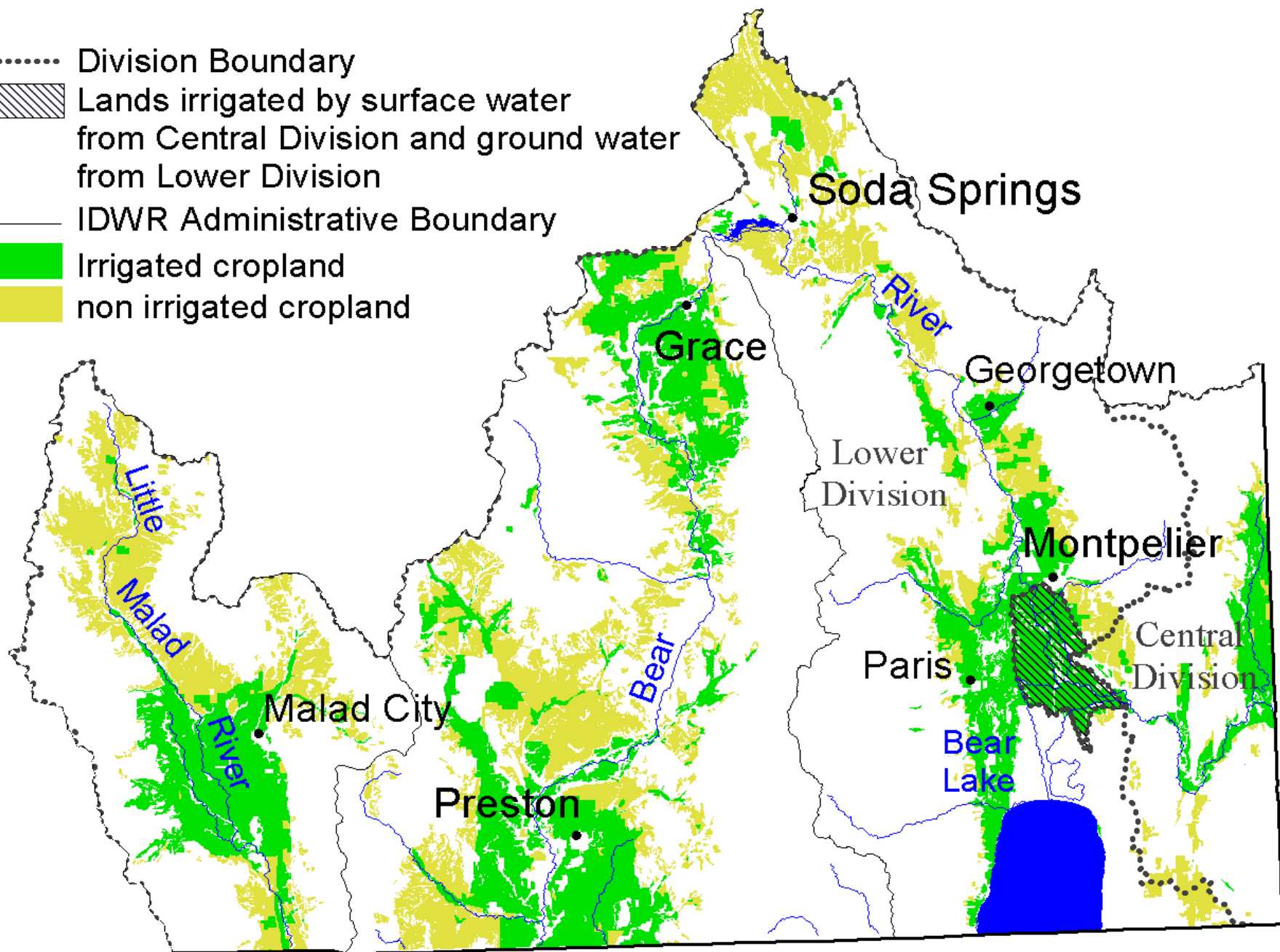
State Water Plan Subcommittee  
Briefing

February 20, 2008

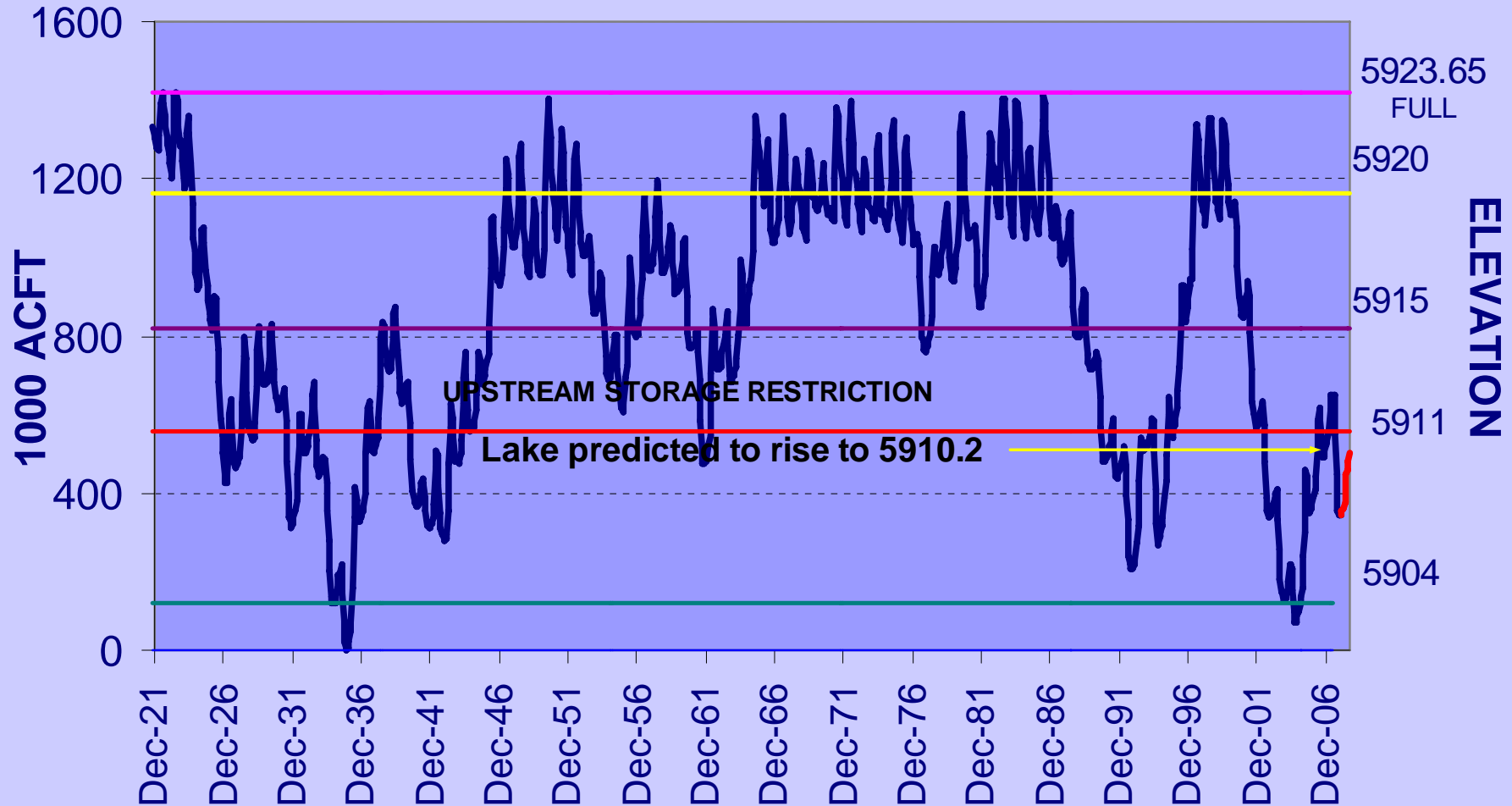




- ..... Division Boundary
-  Lands irrigated by surface water from Central Division and ground water from Lower Division
- IDWR Administrative Boundary
-  Irrigated cropland
-  non irrigated cropland

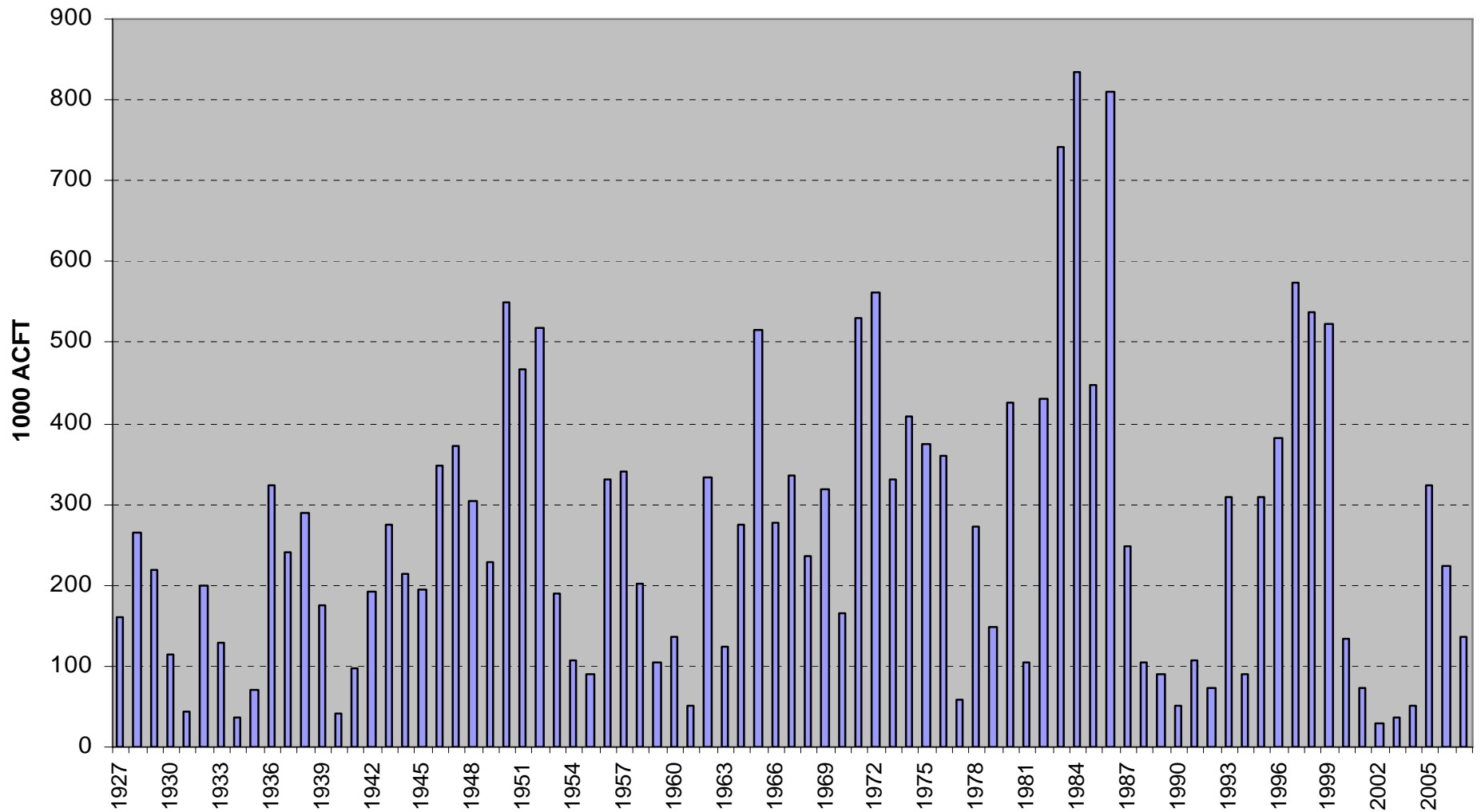


BEAR LAKE END OF MONTH STORAGE  
WATER YEARS 1922-2007  
UPDATED THRU Oct 2007



# RAINBOW CANAL ANNUAL DISCHARGE

1927-2003



# Bear River Compact

Major purpose to remove the causes of present and future controversy over the distribution and use of waters of the Bear River.

- Provide for efficient multiple use
- Permit additional development
- Promote interstate comity
- Accomplish equitable apportionment



# Bear River Compact (cont'd)

- Administered by Bear River Commission.
- Commission composed of nine members, three from each state and non-voting federal chairman.
- Water rights are administered by states, under state law, except when limited by water emergency.





# Depletion Allocations

- Each state is granted a depletion allocation for development after January 1, 1976.
- Idaho is granted 2000 acre feet in the Central Division, of which in 1990, 64% was developed.
- Idaho Lower Division allocation is the first 125,000 acre feet of which about 5% was developed as of 1990.





# Water Emergency

- Central Division when divertible flow is less than 870 second-feet or flow at ID/WY border gage is less than 350 second-feet.
- When water emergency in effect Idaho gets 57% of divertible flow and Wyoming gets 43%.



# Water Emergency

In Lower Division ( Bear Lake to Salt Lake) when flow of water across Idaho-Utah boundary is insufficient to satisfy water rights in Utah by reason of diversion in Idaho the Commission can declare a water emergency.



# Water Emergency continued

If Commission finds a water emergency exists, then it shall put into effect water delivery schedules based on priority of rights without regard to state line.

( Article IV. 3.)



# Bear Lake Settlement Agreement

- Signed by water users and power company in April 1995
- Purpose of the agreement was to settle disputes concerning the operation and management of Bear Lake including distribution of storage water.
- Storage water allocations are made based upon storage content minus evaporation.



# Bear Lake Settlement Agreement

- Power company developed storage delivery contacts with irrigators.
- Small individual pumpers are grouped for Idaho and Utah.
- Unused water is not carried over for the following years.



# Other Management Issues

- Commission-Approved Procedures include:  
Water Depletion Calculations, Bear Lake Mud Lake Equivalency Calculations, Lower Division Water Delivery Interim Procedures
- Lower Division Water Delivery Schedule
- Ground water not included in accounting for Lower Division assumed below river gage error, both states to study and monitor.



# Interim Procedures

- Recognize that ground water has an impact on flows in Bear River.
- Provide for evaluating the impact and including ground water in the accounting and distribution of Bear River water.
- Include Depletion calculation Procedures for both surface and ground water.





# Interstate Accounting Models

- Idaho and Utah have similar but different accounting models.
- Models use a reach-gain approach to account for natural flow and storage water use.
- Water Master/Commissioner use models to distribute water consistent with water right priority and entitlement.



# Water delivery

Commission has adopted “Interim Procedures” for Lower Division water delivery including:

- Petition form
- Water Accounting and Distribution Method
- Water Delivery Schedule

